

## Lecture Module - Sensors

ME3023 - Measurements in Mechanical Systems

Mechanical Engineering  
Tennessee Technological University

### Module 4 - Sensors

## Module 4 - Sensors

- Topic 1 - Introduction and Overview
- Topic 2 - IC and MEMS based Sensors

## Topic 1 - Introduction and Overview

- Classification of Sensors
- Analog and Digital Sensors
- Example 1: Distance or Range
- Example 2: Rotation

# Classification of Sensors

a **sensor**, a physical element that employs some natural phenomenon... ..to sense the variable being measured

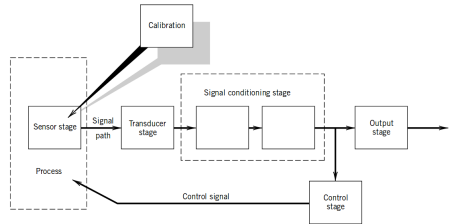
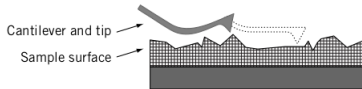


Figure 1.5 Components of a general measurement system.

# Classification of Sensors

# Analog and Digital Sensors

Analog	Digital	Both?
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# Analog and Digital Sensors

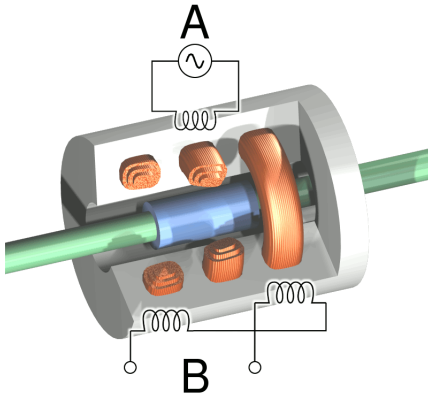
# Analog and Digital Sensors



## Example 1: Distance or Range

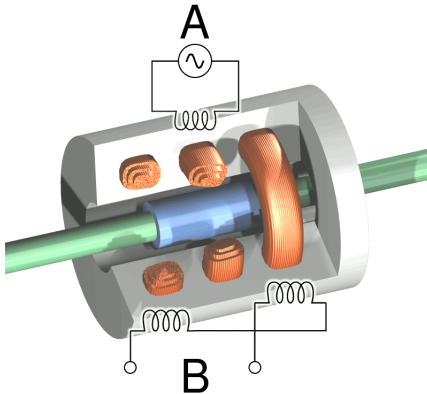
Thought Exercise: How do we measure distance (aka range)?

## Example 1: Distance or Range



LVDTs with NI  
LVDT Animation

## Example 1: Distance or Range



## Example 2: Rotation

**Thought Exercise:** How do we measure **rotation**?

- What variable or quantity is used to describe **rotation**?
  - 
  - 
  -
- What type of sensor is used to measure this?
  - 
  - 
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## Example 2: Rotation

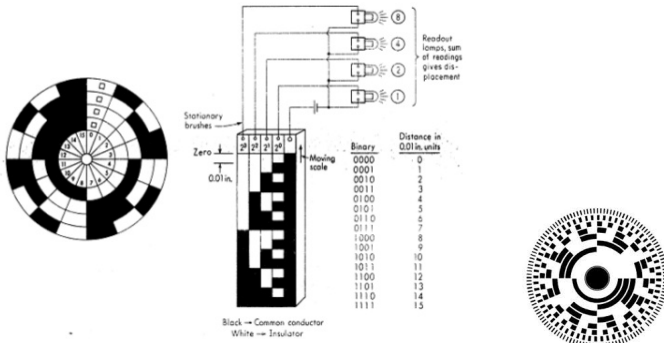
### Rotational Potentiometer



## Example 2: Rotation

### Absolute Encoder

#### 4-Bit Binary Optical Absolute Encoder Disk

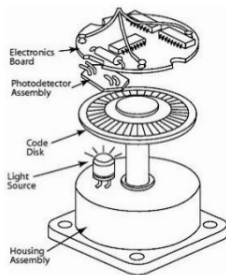


## Example 2: Rotation

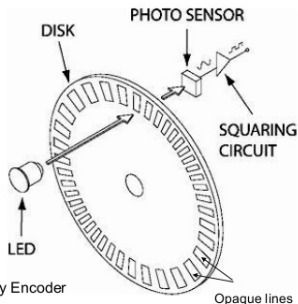
### Incremental Encoder

#### 2. Types of Rotary Encoder - Incremental

##### Construction of Incremental Rotary Encoder



Components inside Incremental Rotary Encoder



## Example 2: Rotation

- What applications require this type of sensor?





## Example 2: Rotation

- How does this type of sensor work?



## Example 2: Rotation

**Thought Exercise:** How do we measure **orientation**?

- What variable or quantity is used to describe **orientation**?
  - 
  - 
  -
- What type of sensor is used to measure this?
  - 
  - 
  -

## Example 2: Rotation

- What applications require this type of sensor?



## Example 2: Rotation

- How does this type of sensor work?



## Topic 2 - IC and MEMS based Sensors

- Integrated Circuits
- Micro Electro-Mechanical Devices
- Example 1: Magnetometer and Digital Compass
- Example 2: Accelerometer

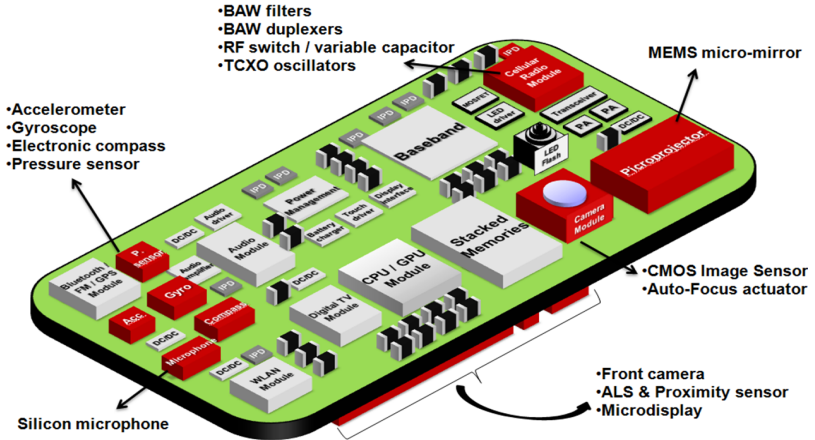
# Integrated Circuits

## Activity: Group Brainstorming

List three applications or devices that use IC based sensors.

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- 
-

# Integrated Circuits



# Micro Electro-Mechanical Devices



**Activity:** Group Brainstorming List three sensors that are found on a high performance quadcopter or drone.

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- 
-



# Micro Electro-Mechanical Devices

## Example 1: Magnetometer and Digital Compass

An accelerometer is a tool that measures proper acceleration, which is the acceleration of a body in its own instantaneous frame.

Applications:

- Navigation Systems - Robotics - Aircraft - Missiles
- Personal Devices - Phones - Tablets
- Others:

## Example 1: Magnetometer and Digital Compass

Thought Exercise: How do we measure acceleration?

**Activity:** Group Brainstorming

Explain one method for measuring acceleration of a body.

## Example 1: Magnetometer and Digital Compass

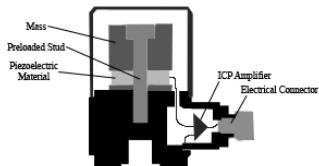
Mechanical Accelerometers Consist of a damped mass spring system and a sensing device.

Types of accelerometers:

- Seismometer or Seismograph
- piezoelectric - charge in material resulting from mechanical stress
- piezoresistive - change in resistance resulting from mechanical stress
- capacitive

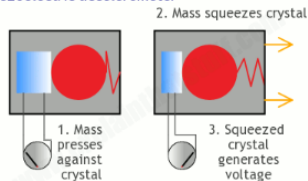
## Example 1: Magnetometer and Digital Compass

piezoelectric accelerometer



Piezoelectric accelerometer

[www.explainthatstuff.com](http://www.explainthatstuff.com)

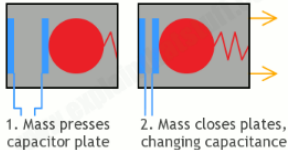


# Example 1: Magnetometer and Digital Compass

## capacitive accelerometer

Capacitive accelerometer

www.explainthatstuff.com



## Example 2: Accelerometer

**Thought Exercise:** How do we measure **orientation**?

- What variable or quantity is used to describe motion?
  - 
  - 
  -
- What type of sensor is used to measure this?
  - 
  - 
  -

## Example 2: Accelerometer

- What applications require this type of sensor?





## Example 2: Accelerometer